THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

ISSN:1208-2473 V.5, N.5, May 1998
An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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REGIONAL LIBRARY FUNDING REVIEW REPORT

The term of the existing funding formula for regional public library boards, implemented in April 1995, expired on March 31, 1998. In June 1997, the Minister appointed a new Committee to examine the impact of this formula on regional library boards and to allocate operating funding for the next period, beginning April 1, 1998.

This Committee built upon the existing funding formula and the accomplishments of the previous Committee. The main components of that formula, a move to stable, uniform per capita funding and a component of board generated funding, were maintained. As well, two significant issues acknowledged by the previous Committee, the lack of standards for public library services in Nova Scotia and the difficulties faced by some boards with the shift to funding based on population, were addressed. The foundation for the Committee's recommendations is a set of standards for core public library services.

Highlights of the recommended funding formula include:

- increasing funding to regional library boards over a three-year period to begin the process of raising all public libraries in Nova Scotia to a minimum level of service over a five-year period
- providing for salary increases of 3%, 2% and 1% over the three years of the formula
- providing supplementary funding to the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board for the three years of the formula to allow them to move toward the minimum level of service from a base comparable to the other regional library boards
- setting the board generated funding requirement at 3% of the per capita operating budget; a reduction from 6% in the current formula
- increasing the French language grant to 10% of the provincial grant for the two regional library boards eligible for this grant

The report was released by the Minister at the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia Annual Conference in Yarmouth on May 2, 1998. The Legislature began its Spring sitting on May 21, 1998 and increased funding for public libraries was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne.

LIBRARY BOARDS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 1-3, YARMOUTH

Delegates were in an upbeat mood and cooperation with a number of provincial initiatives was evident.

Wayne Doggett released the Report of the Regional Public Libraries Funding Review Committee to the conference with a simultaneous news release to the media. Marion Pape delivered two sessions, one on CANCOPY licencing for public libraries and another on the new library standards which were also released to delegates at the conference. Marion was also asked to bring greetings to the Annual General Meeting of the conference and she released the Regional Libraries Strategic Plan, "Access for All". Betty Thomas, a Halifax Regional Library Board member and founder of Thomas and Associates, which offers Cultural Diversity Workshops, presented a workshop on the work of the Library Public Awareness Working Group of the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries.

COUNCIL OF REGIONAL LIBRARIANS (CORL)

The Council of Regional Librarians semi-annual Meeting has just taken place in Lockeport, May 5 and 6, 1998. With the release of the funding review report, the standards report, the strategic planning brochure and the annual report, a strong basis for future work on appropriate reporting mechanisms has been put in place.

RiverSystems

The public library community is very positive about the direction being taken in improving library services and this was particularly evident in the creativity and cooperation provided at the meeting and an Outcome Measures Workshop held on Tuesday morning in the Lockeport Library. This workshop was conducted by Peter Morgan of River Systems and a report from this workshop will be available in the near future.

EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

Barbara MacDonald of Education Enterprises in Economy was awarded the tender to conduct the strategic plan. A joint meeting to begin the process was held in Mulgrave on May 12.

SENCEN STRATEGIC PLAN

Marion Pape was invited to participate in a strategic planning process for the Strait East Nova Community Enterprise Network (SENCEN) on April 24-25

at St. Ann's Gaelic College Conference Centre. About 30 invited participants attended this two day session from Provincial and Federal Government, private sector, community based organizations and Universities.

"Bringing People and Technology Together to Build Enterprising Communities"

SENCEN has 52 communities in their region, 35 CAP sites and 63 public access sites including libraries. It was interesting to see the new models of partnership that are being developed with organizations such as IBM. For more information about SENCEN, visit the website at http://sencen.ednet.ns.ca/frames.htm.

AUTOMATION NEWS

NcompasS Automation Management Committee Semi-Annual Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the NcompasS Automation Management Committee was held in Lockeport on May 4. The Committee is composed of representatives of all libraries who are using the DRA/MultiLIS software on the Provincial Library server. One of the most pressing concerns is the speed of Ednet, particularly in those regional libraries where a headquarters and large branch share a connection. Provincial Library staff is working with Department staff and MT&T to improve response time. Other items discussed at this meeting were the 1998-99 budget, implementation progress of each participating library, their future plans, the Web based NcompasS public access catalogue and Year 2000 issues.

NcompasS: Regional Libraries Catalogue

The big news on automation this month is that NcompasS was switched over to a new IBM RS6000 server at 9.00 am, May 19th. This is the culmination of several months work. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library is now able to proceed very rapidly with the loading of several additional banks. Colchester-East Hants and South Shore Regional Library received all their bibliographic records in their own banks. On other fronts, both Annapolis Valley and Western Counties have completed their first fiscal year closures in the Acquisitions modules. Cape Breton, Eastern Counties and Cumberland are all at various stages of bar coding and patron database projects. The recon of Cape Breton's collection is going very well, but it is a lengthy process.

An additional benefit of the new server is that the additional space will allow the creation of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) bank on NcompasS. The DNR librarian Tracy Lenfesty was ably trained by Joanne Tupper of Provincial Library on the use of the DRA/MultiLIS cataloguing module on May 7, and work on building the DNR catalogue on NcompasS has begun.

Government Libraries Consolidated Catalogue

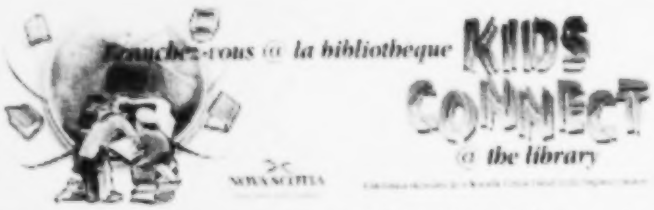
A significant new Nova Scotia node to the virtual Canadian Union Catalogue (vCuc) has been formed by the creation of a Government Libraries Consolidated Catalogue (GLCC) on NcompasS. Five departmental libraries have taken part in a pilot project with the Provincial Library which involved a commitment to maintain the currency of their holdings on the GLCC, to ensure it is a useful resource-sharing tool. The GLCC will initially contain the holdings of the libraries acquired from their 1985-95 contributions to the Canadian Union Catalogue.

The Provincial Library has purchased the extraction of 30,222 records from AMICUS and down loaded them onto the RS6000 from where (after some initial clean-up) they will be loaded into the GLCC on NcompasS. These records will be updated by the owning libraries and then exended by periodic submissions of new acquisitions. Three additional libraries will put all their holdings from their current

in-house catalogues into GLCC, once they have been converted into MARC from the Common Record Structure standard as formulated by the Government Libraries Council. A program has been written for the Provincial Library which will automate this process.

(The libraries involved are the Departments of Community Services; Economic Renewal & Tourism; Education &Culture; Environment; Labour, plus Archives and Records Management; Natural Resources and the Museum of Natural History)

REGIONAL LIBRARIES LAUNCH THE 1998 SUMMER READING PROGRAM



The "kick off" week for the Province-wide reading program is June 22, 1998. The Cape Breton Regional Library will lead the way with an earlier launch on June 13. All the regions plan to promote the program through their local media and many regions have plans to encourage the schools to promote the program. A special project this year is to provide a link with the North West Territories. The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library will spearhead this "virtual exchange." It is hoped that children in the two regions will learn about each others culture and way of life.

REGIONAL LIBRARIES AND THE GATES LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Eric Stackhouse, Systems Librarian at Pictou-Antigonish Counties Regional Public Library, invited representatives from the Nova Scotia regional libraries and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library to the PARL headquarters on May 14 to discuss submitting a proposal for funding to the Gates Library Foundation which has a website at http://www.glf.org/

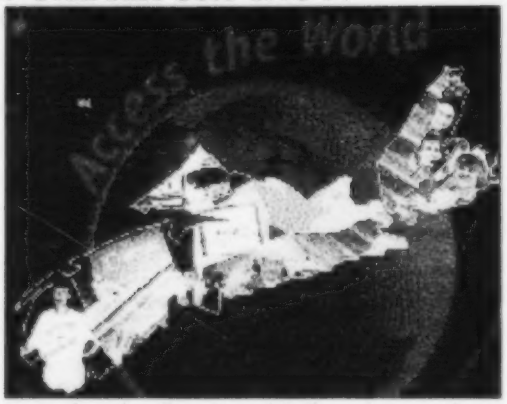
As a result of this meeting, a group of regional library reference staff, including Provincial Library staff, are now working to prepare a proposal for funding from this foundation.

Photos by Joe Wissens' Photo

Marcellus Bryson, 12, gets Bill Gates' attention as he explores his PC at the Detroit Library Online event. 4/28/97

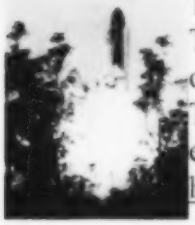
They recognized that all regions will be needing a source of funding to continue upgrading and expanding computer equipment, to train staff in the application of available online reference sources, and to have staff support. The project will look at ways to build on the existing technology and information sources to promote and improve library services by developing "information express terminals" to provide fast, easy access to electronic and digital information without having to deal with technology.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL/REGIONAL LIBRARIES ANNUAL REPORT 1995-97



In April, the first annual report of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and Nova Scotia Regional Libraries, "Access the World", was released. This report covers a two year period, 1995 to 1997 and gives some descriptive information on the libraries in Nova Scotia as well as the statistical information that is so important for the Regional Libraries as they respond to questions from their library boards, municipalities and patrons.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



The McLennans of Petersfield Collection

The Cape Breton Regional Library Board and management will be holding a public launch of the McLennan Collection Digital Web site on June 11th, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The McLennan story is not generally well known, although their influence on events of the early 20th century in Cape Breton was significant. Visit the website at http://www.schoolnet.ca/collections/more2/mclennan/index.htm

French Feasibility Study

An RFP has been issued to conduct a feasibility study to determine a model for providing public access to all major French language information sources in Nova Scotia. A key element to this study will be to identify all major databases and concentrations of information resources. The next step will be to develop a cost-effective, workable model for coordinating access to these resources by any member of the public but particularly by the Acadian/Francophone community. The study will also address the disparity of materials available to Acadian/Francophone citizens across the province.

Nova Scotia is in a good position to develop this service because of its high concentration of public library Internet access sites throughout the province. Any model developed in Nova Scotia could be extended to include Francophones in the rest of Atlantic Canada.

New Atlantic Provinces Library Technician Listserv

A Library Technician Listserv is now up and running. The objectives of this service are threefold: encourage dialogue amongst colleagues to discuss their profession and its direction, provide a forum for intellectual discussion relating to issues important to Library Technicians in particular, and contribute or solicit the collective wisdom or opinions of others in similar situations regarding concerns or experiences, especially in Atlantic Canada.

To subscribe to the Library Technician Listserv follow these simple instructions.
1/ Address an E-mail message to: listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca
2/ leave the subject area blank

3/ in the body of the message type only *subscribe lt-l your name* (no italics).
4/ When you would like to post something or respond to something you see on the listserv email it to lt-l@nshpl.library.ns.ca

National Library Web Form for Requesting Interlibrary Loans

The Interlibrary Loan Division of the National Library is introducing a new Web form for requesting interlibrary loans. The new form will allow registered libraries to send interlibrary loan requests to the National Library via the Internet. This web-based request form is offered ONLY to libraries registered with the National Library's Interlibrary Loan Service. In order to use this form, libraries must have a valid library symbol as well as a user name and password assigned by the National Library. To register, please complete the form at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ill/einstruc.htm. Please do not use this form if you can send requests by Envoy, by AMICUS/ILL or with an ILL software package based on the ILL protocol. If you have any questions, please contact Helene Charbonneau, Client Services Coordinator at illser@nlc-bnc.ca or phone (613) 996-7527 or fax (613)996-4424.

The Nova Scotia Information Policy Initiative

A report called "The Information Policy Initiative Report Summary and Discussion Paper" was recently released by the Nova Scotia Provincial Government. It covers privacy and accountability issues, and takes a look at the implications of re-packaging and selling government information. The complete text of the document can be viewed on the Internet at http://www.gov.ns.ca/govt/ipi. Specific comments are welcome, since the purpose of the document is to generate feedback. You can address comments to the Technology and Science Secretariat, either by phone at 424-0377 or by e-mail at IPINIT@gov.ns.ca.

TRAINING NEWS

Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference, May 21-24
Pat Cavill is the team leader for the Canadian Library Association's *Library Advocacy Now!* campaign, whose mission is to champion advocacy for libraries throughout Canada. In an all-day pre-conference session, Pat led thirty participants through the basics of lobbying decision-makers on behalf of our libraries. A number of Nova Scotia Provincial Library and regional library staff attended the various programs and workshops in Wolfville. It was a good opportunity to network.

Presentation to Library Technician Students on Halifax Library Association (HLA)
Marlene Mortimore, an instructor in the Library Technician Program, Nova Scotia Community College, invited a member of the Halifax Library Association to speak about the advantages of joining library associations. Gillian Webster talked up the advantages of joining HLA, which promotes co-operation and exchange of information between all types of libraries in the metro area.

Presentation and tour at Nova Scotia Provincial Library for Kingstec Library Technician Students
Harvey Ratchford, Instructor, Library & Information Technology Program at Kingstec Campus, Nova Scotia Community College, brought a dozen students and two other instructors to tour the Nova Scotia Provincial Library on May 5. Gillian Webster showed the group around the Provincial Library.

Provincial/Regional Public Libraries Test Canadian Periodical Index Fulltext (CPIQ) and Books in Print on the Internet
After the success of implementing access to Information Access Company's two databases on health and general interest periodicals, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the regional public libraries are

examining the benefits of CPIQ, which has recently been bought by Information Access Company. All subject areas are represented, with an emphasis on mainstream and academic titles available in Canadian libraries. The initial trial period ends June 30. Similarly, a trial period has begun for Books in Print (BIP) from Micromedia until late June.

STAFFING NEWS

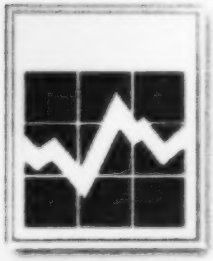
Bridget Turner, Coordinator of Technical Services, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, will be leaving the Provincial Library on June 30 after two and a half years in the position. Bridget has been instrumental in moving the regional libraries forward at a sometimes hectic pace. Through this, she has led the Technical Services team into the difficult period of running parallel automated and manual systems and has ensured they are well equipped to continue until all manual processes cease. As well, Bridget has contributed greatly to the development of the Government Libraries Consolidated Catalogue and has introduced staff to the new generation of DRA software. We wish Bridget well as she resumes her life in Ottawa.

Suzette Dutton left the Technical Services Section at the end of May. Suzette has been working very diligently on the reconversion of Cape Breton Regional Libray's manual records for the last two months.

Anna Kowalski is enrolled in the Library and Information Technician Program at the Halifax campus of the Nova Scotia Community College, and is on a 4 week work experience term at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library until June 12th. Carol Morris, Head of Information Services, is working with her to provide her with experience in reference work. Anna was born and educated in Poland, then left to study further in London, England, before coming to Canada in 1997. She says she has always been fascinated by reference services work, and is finding her term at Nova Scotia Provincial Library very rewarding.

LINKed

This month's column is devoted to some useful statistical sites which are on the Internet. There is a great deal of information which is available at the **Statistics Canada** site at http://www.statcan.ca/



This site has the latest issue of the *The Daily* plus a searchable archive going back to June 1995. There is also free information from the 1996 Census such as *Population & Dwelling Counts* tables and selected tables from *The Nation Series*. As well, there is free tabular data on aspects of Canada's economy, land, people and government.

Statistics Canada's **Online Library Catalogue "Bibliocat"** can be searched via a link at http://www.statcan.ca/english/biblionet/

There is also an index of free downloadable publications at http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/downpub/freepub.cgi although you will need to use the (free) Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.0 to view these.

The **Canadian Socio-Economic Information Management System (CANSIM)** is a time series database containing more than 650,000 items, where items can be searched and ordered for a fee, at http://www.statcan.ca/english/CANSIM/

The Statistics Canada site also has links to other statistical Web sites such as the **Nova Scotia Department of Finance Statistics Division** site at http://www.gov.ns.ca/fina/stats.div/aastats.htm Here

you will find Statistical Profiles of Urban Centres, Towns, Municipalities, Counties, Economic Regions, the Tourist Industry and Information Technology and the text of publications on Nova Scotia Economic Indicators and Business Statistics. There is a similar link for each of the other Canadian provinces and territories. For statistical information on other parts of the world, the Statistics Canada site has a long list of international links to sites such as:

STAT-USA U.S. Department of Commerce at http://www.stat-usa.gov/

OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development) at http://www.oecd.org/

Statistics Bureau & Statistics Center (Japan) at http://www.stat.go.jp/

EUROSTAT at http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/eurostat/

If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca. -- Carol Morris

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Q. Would like information on stunt bikes which includes illustrations of stunts.

A. The search term "stunt bike*" was entered at the AltaVista search engine, retrieving a commercially sponsored sports site called **ExtremeSports: Stunt Bikes** at http://www.burstgum.com/extreme/sportsbikes.html. This site has information on how to do various stunts and a glossary of stunt bike terms. An alternate search strategy is to use the Yahoo Web guide and follow the path Yahoo/Recreation & Sports/Cycling, then enter the phrase "stunt bike" to search in the cycling category. This turned up the **ESPNET SportsZone Bicycle stunt site** at http://espn.sportszone.com/editors/xgames/bicycle/index.html. This site has articles on stunt bike riding, a history of bicycle stunt riding, a bicycle stunt glossary, and pictures of stunt bike tricks. It is part of **ESPN SportsZone**, an electronic sports magazine http://espn.sportszone.com/

Q. Patron would like cassette tapes for learning English, especially developed for German speakers.

A. There are a number of cassettes for learning English in the catalogue of a German publisher on the Web. To find these, go to the following URL: http://www.mail-order-kaiser.de/D/mok.html and scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on the word *Suchen*. That will open up a form. Go down to the line that says *Schlagwort*, type in "englisch" (without the quotation marks) and click on the little button to the immediate right that says "R". This will open up another window to the right. The fourth entry down the list in the right hand window says "Englisch; Cassetten-Lehrgaenge". Click on this and it will replace the word "englisch" you originally entered on the left side of the screen. Once you've done that, click on the word Suchen at the top of the screen. That will give you the same list of titles which range dramatically in price. --Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

Here are reviews of two additions to the growing monograph collection of our professional collection. These items are available for circulation through the normal interlibrary loan channels:

Annotated bibliography on universal design: a selection of books on creating accessible

environments. Produced by the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Accessibility Program. Victoria, BC: British Columbia, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Housing, 1997. (Call # Prof. 720 .87 Ann)
Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, without the need of adaptations or specialized design. This bibliography of 130 items was compiled to assist B. C. Libraries to make their local communities more accessible. For ease and browsing purposes, the bibliography has been divided into three principal subject areas -Accessibility -General, Accessible Housing and Accessible Public Spaces. Subject, author and title indexes have been included as well as an alphabetical listing of distributors cited in the bibliography. A glossary is included.

James, Maureen and Rykert, Liz. **Working together online**. Toronto: Web Networks, c1997. (Call # Prof. 303.4 Jam).
The authors ' purpose is to help move organizations from face-to-face meetings and conference calls, to online collaboration. The advantages of online collaboration include saving money and allowing organizations and groups to share information and improve productivity. Throughout its six chapters and appendices, the book provides tools and proven strategies to enable organizations to make the transition to working together in an online environment.

Suggestions for New Periodical Titles
The Nova Scotia Provincial Library is now soliciting suggestions for new periodical titles to be added to our professional collection. Its important to receive input from our prime users of the professional collection, which include you! Please be aware, however, that some current titles may have to be cancelled to accommodate any new subscriptions. If you want to examine our current list of professional periodicals, it is available via our homepage at http://www.library.ns.ca/publications.html. Please send any suggestions to oramfl@gov.ns.ca or call 424-2480.